

**From:** [Das Margaret](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Support access to all preventive care for all women  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 10, 2011 6:38:55 PM

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I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine as they pertain to coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for “religious employers.” These preventive services are a critical element of the new law and would provide countless women better access to necessary health care.

I think “religious refusal” exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services, and are driven by an ideological distaste for all contraceptive services. If hospitals with religious affiliations are exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies a large number of women would be without access to an essential component of medical care. This would adversely impact not just the women but also their children and extended family. If granted, this larger religious exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work.

I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting the IOM’s recommendations and rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions.